

SUPREME COURT.—Decision in Probate.

In the matter of the proof of the will of Frederick James Porter.

Judge Robertson in delivering his decision said as follows:

The hearing of this matter was had, at chambers, on the 21st inst., upon the petition of William Miller, Esq., H. B. M.'s Consul General, for Probate of the last will and testament of Frederick J. Porter; or that if the will presented should not be admitted to probate, an Administrator might be appointed upon the estate of the deceased.

The document offered for probate as the will of Mr. Porter is in the following words, viz:

"I, Frederick James Porter do hereby will and bequeath unto my youngest brother, Septimus Francis Porter, of York, in the county of Yorkshire, Great Britain, the whole of my property after my funeral expenses and just debts are paid, for his especial use and benefit. I further call upon W. Miller British Consul General to take such steps as may insure such a disposal of the same. Witness my signature.

"F. J. PORTER."

This paper was found in the private writing desk of Mr. Porter, on the day of his death, the desk being at the time unlocked.

Mr. Frederick Ogden, with whom Mr. Porter was a partner in business up to the time he committed suicide on the 11th August last, appears by counsel, and opposes the application for probate of the document presented as the will of the deceased, on the ground that it is not properly authenticated by subscribing witnesses, and further that the deceased was insane when he executed the same. He also opposes the application for letters of Administration to be granted to Mr. Robert Clouston, who claims to represent Septimus Francis Porter, under power of attorney, on the ground that the applicant is not a relative or a creditor of the deceased; that the power of attorney presented to the court has not been executed in the manner required by law, and that Mr. Ogden, as the surviving partner of the firm of Porter and Ogden, has the exclusive right to settle the partnership affairs, and is the only person, here, properly authorized to take out letters of Administration on the estate of his deceased partner.

The first question to be determined is, whether or not the document presented shall be admitted to probate, and as for the last will and testament of Frederick J. Porter.

The counsel for Mr. Ogden objects to this on the ground that it was not executed in the presence of witnesses, which he contends is necessary by express provision in the laws of Great Britain, of which country the deceased was a subject, and, by implication, according to the laws of this kingdom. In setting this point, the court must be governed entirely by the laws of this country, if there are any on the subject, and the established practice of this court. There is in this kingdom no statute similar to those of England and the States of the American Union, to which reference has been made, prescribing the manner in which a will must be executed and attested, in order to its validity. But it would seem that the legislature has not contemplated that every will should be attested by one or more witnesses, for sec. 3d at page 55 of the second volume of the Statute Laws makes express provision for the citation of such witnesses whenever a will is to be presented for proof.

I am not aware that this court has in any instance, heretofore, admitted to be proven as a will any document the execution of which was not attested by at least one subscribing witness; and where wills have been proved by but one subscribing witness, the court has frequently, particularly in contested cases, required the additional testimony of others who saw the testator sign the instrument, but did not subscribe their names as witnesses at the time. I am not inclined, in the absence of a statutory provision on the subject, to increase the stringency of the practice which has hitherto prevailed; but, at the same time, I feel that to admit to probate the informal document now before me, as a valid last will and testament, upon the evidence merely of one witness testifying to his opinion of the handwriting, unless shown to have been made under circumstances where witnesses could not be procured, would be to set up a dangerous precedent, to encourage fraud, and to disregard the wisdom and experience which have, in other countries, prompted the Legislature to power to guard and regulate so important a subject by express enactments. In ruling thus in the present case, I do not say but that, under a different state of facts, I would sustain a holograph will, although not attested by a single subscribing witness.

Having decided, then, that the document presented cannot be admitted to probate, on the grounds before specified, it becomes unnecessary for me to touch upon the objection made to it on the score of the alleged insanity of the deceased, and I will now proceed to consider the application for letters of Administration upon his estate.

Consul General Miller, who made the application to the court on the 10th of February, requests by his letter of the 20th inst. that in case letters of Administration are granted, they may be granted to Mr. Robert Clouston, to whom, as stated by the Consul General, Mr. Septimus Francis Porter, has forwarded a power of attorney, fully authorizing Mr. Clouston to act for him in this matter.

The counsel for the petitioner contends, I think with much propriety, that although the document offered for probate may not be sufficiently formal in its execution to warrant the court in upholding it as a good and valid will, yet it is indicative of the animus testandi of the deceased to such an extent as ought, in some measure, to guide the court in granting the letters of Administration. I have no doubt that if Septimus Francis Porter had come to this country in person, and applied for probate of his brother's will, and that had been refused, either of the Judges having jurisdiction would have granted letters of Administration to him, in preference to other applicants, under the circumstances.

On allowing the power of attorney to be read at the hearing, I reserved the objection to it raised by Mr. Ogden's counsel, that the same has not been executed in the manner required by law. The document is a special power of attorney, drawn up in the form usual in England, purporting to have been duly executed by Septimus F. Porter, in the presence of Shepley Watson, Solicitor in York, and Alfred Guy, Attorney at Law there. It also bears an affidavit by Shepley Watson, to the effect that he and the other subscribing witnesses saw Mr. Porter execute the instrument, which affidavit appears to have been sworn to before the Right Honorable George Wilson, Lord Mayor of York, who has authenticated the same under his official signature and seal. The learned counsel referred in his argument, to the decision of Chief Justice Lee on this subject, in the case of A. Orr Ewing, et al. vs. Robert C. Janion, and although the mode in which the execution of the power of attorney now before me is authenticated, is not quite so satisfactory as that of the one presented in the case referred to, yet, in view of the decision appealed to, in the reasoning of which I fully concur, I would not feel myself justified in refusing to receive as genuine, the one offered in this instance.

In the case of A. Orr Ewing, et al. vs. Robert C. Janion, Chief Justice Lee said, "We are aware that the general rule on this subject, as it prevails in England and the United States, supports the doctrine contended for, but that rule has not been adopted here, to its full extent, and in the present position of affairs at these islands, we do not feel justified in so adopting it." The learned Chief Justice said further, "and we feel inclined to say, that so long as we have no Commissioners in other countries to take the acknowledgment of deeds, powers of attorney &c., an acknowledgment made before the Lord Provost and Chief Magistrate of Glasgow, or the Mayor or Chief Magistrate of any large city in Great Britain, France, or the United States, or a notary public, and duly authenticated under his hand and official seal, will be sufficient evidence of the execution of such deed or power of attorney here. Such a ruling would seem to be almost necessary in these remote islands, to the safety of commercial transactions."

of Frederick James Porter, I feel impelled by a sense of duty towards his heirs, as I also feel perfectly justified in the deliberate exercise of the discretion vested in this court, to grant the Letters of Administration, as prayed for, to Mr. Robert Clouston.

Mr. Ogden's counsel contends that he, as the surviving partner of the firm of Porter & Ogden, and a creditor of the deceased, is the only person in this kingdom properly entitled to letters of Administration. I am unable to perceive the force of this argument, for, in practice, the appointment of parties other than the survivor, to administer on the estate of a deceased partner, is a thing of every day occurrence, notwithstanding that, as is argued by the learned counsel, the surviving partner has the exclusive right to wind up the partnership affairs. As to Mr. Ogden being a creditor of the estate of the deceased, there is no evidence before the court of that fact, and even if there were I do not think it ought to influence my decision in the present case.

Letters of Administration are granted to Mr. Robert Clouston, on his filing the customary Bond required by law, in the penal sum of \$10,000.

JOHN MONTGOMERY, Esq. Solicitor for the Petitioner.

J. D. BLAIR, Esq. Solicitor for Mr. Ogden.

THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1855.

What Legislation is needed.

It is known to our readers that we have more fears from too much, than from too little, law-making and law-altering. Hasty legislation,—changing what has worked well, merely for the sake of change,—is to be deprecated, as more injurious than no legislation at all. It was with this view that we once expressed the opinion that biennial sessions of the legislature were all-sufficient for the transaction of all the necessary business of this kingdom. Such now is our opinion, from more experience and more reflection: and did the constitution allow it, we should hope to see such a change made by the action of the two houses at the approaching session. But the constitution, which is, and should be, the supreme law standard, requires annual sessions, and until this is altered, no law-making such a change, can be valid.

But as annual sessions are required, the question of what legislation is needed for the benefit of the kingdom, becomes one of some moment. A comparison of opinions becomes important, to throw light upon interests and moral principles, which underlie national as well as individual prosperity, and respectability.

Of course the ministers of the King are the proper persons to recommend subjects for the consideration of the legislature; and we could wait for their Reports before commenting on measures which they may or may not bring before the public: but as the editor of the Argus has made certain suggestions, and allows the legislature a month or six weeks at most in which to attend to them, we must be allowed to say a word or two, although most of the subjects he touches upon have been discussed out of the legislature and in, until they have become nauseating to every body.

Omitting, for the time, all other topics, we shall take a glance at what is said upon "our educational system;" for if we do not misunderstand the editor, he wishes to break it down, or make it subservient to influences which would render it a curse rather than a blessing to the nation.

We quote from the Argus.

"Let the Legislature revise our educational system. There is something rotten in the State of Denmark. The Schools are diminishing daily in members and attendance, and the school taxes are grudgingly paid, not through the increasing attraction of the English schools, for they have not been long enough in existence to react on the Hawaiian Schools, but the causes lie deeper and well deserve the serious investigation of the Legislature. We think that the cause lies in the very construction of the Department, and not in the apathy or unwillingness of the people to forward the education of their children; and if so be, let the Constitution and the Organic Acts be amended. The Department of public instruction is too top heavy, hence its tottering condition. Connected as it is with all the bigotry and prejudices of a peculiar sect, it stands in painful contrast with the religious toleration and liberal opinions that are the essential postulates of a young people's progress."

If we had many fears that such insinuations, and such false and intolerant surmises would be seriously regarded in any quarter, we might take some pains to show that the same arguments that would prevail to break down the department of public instruction, would be amply sufficient to break down any and every other department of the government. Such is the fact; that is to say, if subordinates neglect to do their duty, and justice fails to be executed, why then break down the judiciary! "There is something rotten in the State of Denmark!"

Again, if tax collectors do not make proper returns; if road-superintendents are corrupt, and pocket the road fund; if governors of islands are tardy in their collections and their reports to the treasury, why, down with the department of Finance! "There is something rotten in the State of Denmark!"

And so we might go on, and with a logic as profound as the editor's, demolish, not the departments merely,—but the government itself; and learn, when too late, that "an enemy hath done this," and is exulting in his triumph. There may be many things to correct in the department of public instruction, as in every other branch of the government; but in making corrections and in remedying abuses,—if any such exist,—do not demolish the whole, or take for granted that every thing is true which malice may suggest about it. Neither is it wise to trust too implicitly to the imaginary results contemplated from any particular course of action. Visionaries are always sanguine, and almost always prove false prophets. We remember our friend of the Argus proved by figures, that if the tonnage dues were taken off, sundry 1000 ton ships would visit our ports, that otherwise would stay away, and leave a large number of passengers, who would each leave a large amount of money, which would show how or other make up to the revenue what was lost by the tonnage dues. Well, the visionary prevailed. The ships have not yet appeared, nor will they. The revenue will lose some \$8,000 it can ill afford to spare, and which must be made up in some other way.—The moral of which is, let "well enough" alone, until you are quite sure you can do better.

"The schools are diminishing daily in members and attendance, and the school-taxes are grudgingly paid." The first clause of this sentence is untrue, as will be seen by the table of schools accompanying the Minister's report. The second clause has more semblance of truth in it, but it may be asked, what tax is not grudgingly paid? Let those answer who like to pay taxes. But however this may be, the school-tax is the best paid tax in the kingdom, which shows, either that the people are not so grudging of their money, or that the machinery for its collection is more perfect than for the collection of the other taxes. The editor asserts at random, and is not to be trusted. His "bigotry," "prejudices," "peculiar sect," "toleration," &c. &c. are the mere clap-net expressions which he presses into the service whenever he feels too indignant, or has no real argument to use. They are all gammon, like his vineyards upon the hill-sides around Honolulu, among which his imagination once revelled with so much delight.

But we have a serious interest in common schools at these islands, which will not allow us to feel indifferent, when their existence is threatened, or their vitality seriously jeopardized. They have too deep a hold upon our affections to allow us to see the tampering hand of inexperience unwittingly attempt to guide them, without a protest from us. By saying this, we do not attempt to maintain that their management is perfect, and cannot be improved; but we do say, that in our humble opinion any change that shall lower their importance in public or private estimation, will be suicidal. They are of too much consequence to be thrust down to a secondary place in the catalogue of government duties. No duty is more imperative, or honorable, and no branch of government is calculated to reflect more glory upon the country and reign, than the schools of the land. They are the nurseries of the nation; and if men are ever to be found here in the future, they are to come from the common schools. To cut down, then, this high and sacred national duty, and commit it to the hands of a mere "bureau of the Interior Department," as the editor of the Argus has suggested, would be, in our view, inflict an injury upon the youth of the islands, and upon the generations following, of an irreparable nature.

Nay, let the Department of Public Instruction be maintained as an important and distinct branch of the public service. Let its head be devoted to it entirely; unincumbered with other government cares, honored and paid like other heads of departments, and we shall have no fears that education will not flourish, or that posterity will not honor the men and approve the expenditure, which have secured such inestimable blessings to the people.

The advice of the editor of the Argus to devote the whole of the present school fund to English schools, leaving as such a course of study, the great majority of the children to grow up in entire ignorance, is too absurd to require a moment's consideration. The whole revenue of the kingdom would scarcely suffice to educate its youth in English; how far then would forty thousand dollars go towards such a result. But we need not dwell upon such a suggestion a moment. Any proposition that contemplates a relapse into heathenism, we presume will not meet with favor in either house of the legislature.

We do not require much legislation this year—and none, merely for the sake of the legislating. But what we have should not retrograde. We want the standard kept high upon the subject of morals, temperance, virtue, and what tends to elevate, and not degrade and debilitate the people. Of course assaults will be made upon religion, virtue, temperance, &c., and persons like the editor of the Argus will sneer at and ridicule religion, tea-totallers, the Sabbath, &c. But we most earnestly trust the members of the legislature and of the Hawaiian government generally, will not for a moment forget that these are the things that give stability to a nation at home, and respectability to it abroad; and for these let them not be ashamed to seek. It is better to be "bigoted" in a righteous than in an unrighteous cause; and it is safe to remember that "Righteousness exalteth a nation."

The steamer Sea Bird.

We are informed that the Company have resolved to dispatch the Sea Bird to the coast, where she will probably be engaged once more in the route between San Francisco and San Diego. The reason for withdrawing this boat from the coasting trade is, that during the summer months there is not sufficient business for two boats, and one must be laid up at a heavy expense and loss, and be exposed to the assaults of winds, which are destructive to vessels lying idle in the tropics.

The Sea Bird will sail, we understand, about the 9th of April, under command of Capt. E. Wakeman, who has successfully braved the storms around the Horn, and who is remarkably well qualified to make the Sea Bird's trip over safe and pleasant. Freight and passage can be secured by application at the office of the agent, H. Prendergast, Esq.

The Sea Bird will return by the 1st of October, or in time for an increase of business in the fall, by the arrival of the sailing fleet. During the summer, the Kaima will make alternate weekly trips to the windward and leeward, unless prevented by stress of weather, or some unforeseen occurrence.

Officers of H. B. M.'s Ship Dido.

Captain, W. H. A. Morshead, C. B.
Lieutenants, John Hammer, Thos. Andrews, Chas. Ryder.
Master, F. B. Henwood.
Officer of marines, C. L. A. Farmer.
Surgeon, Robt. Bernard; Asst. Surgeon, Jacob E. Dyer.
Paymaster, Henry S. Dyer.
Mates, W. J. Walker, E. W. P. Boileau, Chas. Pringle.
Clerk, Alfred Boys.
Second Master, E. J. Kellow.
Midshipmen, E. M. Tupper, Sabine Russell Packy, E. D. Acklow.

Death of the Hon. Luther Severance.

This event occurred on the 30th of January, at Augusta, Maine, and will not take our readers by surprise. During his entire residence at the islands, as Commissioner of the United States, Mr. Severance was more or less an invalid; and for a considerable period a great sufferer. His age was 57.

His family will have the sympathy of many friends here, where they and he were universally esteemed.

Meigs, and the bark America.

By a notice in the Friend, the whereabouts of Meigs and the bark America early in January is made known. From Tahiti she sailed for Pitcairn's island, where she arrived, landed a passenger and sailed again for parts unknown.

Like Noah's dove, sent out before the waters were assuaged, the conscience smitten Meigs will find no rest for the sole of his foot; nor can distance shield him from the wrong he has done himself. An outlaw and a fugitive, verily "the way of the transgressor is hard."

Caroline—who is Caroline?

This question has been so frequently put to us, that it may be satisfactory to many of our readers to read the following, which is all the information we can give on the subject. "Caroline" will be welcome, even six months hence.

EDITOR OF "POLYNESIAN":—

In answer to yours of last week, I would beg to inform you that there are no more in my possession of the same sort by Caroline and for this reason and to gratify the curiosity of some of your Lady readers, the authors resides in another land and it is some 5 years since I received it, enclosed in a letter. By my writing and your waiting say, 6 months I might be able to supply you with another gem by the same Lady. Yours &c.

A BRITISH STEAMER.

Honolulu, March 28, 1855.

We have received from Adams & Co. & Wells Fargo & Co's, Expresses, favors by the Fanny Major for which they will accept our thanks.

Mail of February the 5th.

Through the kindness of Messrs. G. B. Post & Co. of San Francisco, who detained the Fanny Major 24 hours on purpose, we have to hand the New York mail of Feb. 5th, and the European of the 20th of January. The Fanny Major has had a long passage, and our dates from San Francisco are to the 2d of March, 28 days old.

The failure of the principal banking houses of San Francisco is the great item of interest from that city. Messrs. Page, Bacon, & Co., Adams & Co., Wells, Fargo & Co., and two or three banks of minor note, had suspended, and none, with the exception of Wells, Fargo & Co., had resumed, or were likely to. The effect of this breaking of banks had been most disastrous,—operating extensively all through California, where these houses had connections. Many failures had resulted from them, and business generally became disorganized. Confidence was much shaken in the integrity of banks, generally, and doubts have been freely expressed of their utility, altogether, without many further checks, for the security of depositors.

The immediate effect upon remittances to New York is thus stated in the Alta of March 1st.

The last steamer took forward about \$92,000; the shipment of to-morrow will not probably exceed \$250,000. Thus we have \$342,000 against what should have been at least \$2,000,000—a falling off of over \$1,600,000 in two weeks! We must expect extremely short shipments for many weeks to come; so that it may prove that this single move will diminish the supply of gold in Wall street \$10,000, in less than four months. No one can fail to see what would be the effect of such a state of affairs on the Atlantic trade. Bain would probably be entailed upon hundreds of thousands of innocent parties, and the whole financial affairs of the community be disarranged.

This whole subject has assumed within the last few days an unusual and surpassing interest, and the public are anxiously looking for "more light."

The Panama Railroad was opened on the 16th of February. An address was delivered on the occasion of the celebration by Judge Bowlin, the American Minister to New Grenada, in presence of the leading Directors and stockholders of the road, and many invited guests who had come on from New York for the purpose of celebrating the event.

The passengers by the steamer George Law from New York, and of the John L. Stevens from San Francisco, all passed safely over the road in three hours! The Panama Railroad is now a *fixed fact*, and not one to be expected in the future.

The following are some of the items of interest from late American papers:—

Affairs of Page, Bacon & Co.

The N. Y. Tribune says:—We are gratified to learn that the prospects of recovery are favorable for an early resumption of payment on the part of Messrs. Page & Bacon, of St. Louis. The late steamer is understood to have brought considerable remittances from Page, Bacon & Co., for the account of the St. Louis House, and the friends of that establishment here have combined to make it a sufficient loan to enable it to resume payment on all its obligations. Of this fund a very considerable amount has already been pledged, with every prospect of making up the remainder.

We have a report from the West, that the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad Company have made a very favorable settlement with Page & Bacon, and have now the completion of the road in their own hands.

ANNUAL STATISTICS.—The New York Herald gives some statistics of the United States for the year 1854. The amount of property destroyed by fire, where the loss in each instance exceeded \$20,000, is stated at \$29,578,000. The total loss by fire is estimated at \$25,000,000. Number of persons killed by accidents to railroad trains, 186; number wounded, 225. Number of persons killed by accidents to railroad trains, 186; number wounded, 225. Number of lives lost by burning buildings, 171. Number of murders, 682; number of executions, 171. Number of Revolutionary soldiers deceased, 84. Number of persons aged 100 years and over, deceased, 47.

THE OVERLAND EXPRESS MAIL.—Is Express, Feb. 1.—Mr. Seward, from the Post Office Committee, reported a joint resolution that a weekly mail to and from San Francisco, from some point on the Mississippi, be established, the trip to be fourteen days, the postage on the letters to be fifty cents per half ounce, and pre-paid, the mail not to weigh over one hundred pounds, and the remuneration to be \$5,000 a trip; the contract to be commenced within one year, and to be continued five years.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD PROJECT.—An expedition has been organized in New Orleans by the Government, for the purpose of securing further information relative to a railroad route to the Pacific. Capt. Pope, with a force of 150 troops, is to proceed to La Jolla de Estevado to ascertain whether water is obtainable there by means of Artesian wells.

The senate have passed the bill authorizing the President to enroll three thousand volunteers for service against the Indians, and have appropriated two and half million dollars for their support.—They are intended to operate it is said against the Sioux.

LAUNCH OF THE U. S. FRIGATE SARKIN.—This famous old frigate, after a thirty-one years' seasoning upon the stocks, was launched on Saturday, Feb. 24, from the Brooklyn Navy Yard, in the presence of over 5,000 persons.

In the House, Feb. 1, the Pacific Telegraph Bill was taken up. Mr. Richardson offered a substitute for the bill, striking out the grant of two millions of acres of land, reserving the right of way, and extending the penal law of the United States over the line for its protection. This substitute was agreed to, and the bill passed by a vote of 110 against 70. Although under this bill Government does not give one cent in money or a rod in land in aid of the telegraph, Col. Benton malignantly opposed it.

Lieut. Charles G. Hunter has been summarily dismissed from the navy by the President, for returning home with the brig Reinbrede from Brazil in defiance of the Commodore of that station.

The House has passed the bill to enable the people of Oregon to form a State Government.

TWO WEEKS LATER FROM EUROPE.

By the steamship Africa at Boston, Liverpool dates to Jan. 20th were received.

The War.

There is a remarkable scarcity of intelligence respecting either the progress of the siege or the progress of negotiations for peace. The chief interest now centres in the proceedings of the Congress at Vienna. Hopes are entertained that negotiations may be opened; but equally well-grounded apprehensions prevail that the present negotiations will fail to re-establish peace, in which event, all concern that this war will assume a vast magnitude.

The French and English ministers at Vienna have received the necessary powers to enable them to reopen negotiations, for the purpose of securing further information relative to a railroad route to the Pacific. Capt. Pope, with a force of 150 troops, is to proceed to La Jolla de Estevado to ascertain whether water is obtainable there by means of Artesian wells.

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As a set-off against this statement, Count Buel, the Austrian Minister, is reported to have declared at a complimentary dinner to the Ottoman Minister, that Austria would fight side by side with England and France against Russia.

Prussia, it will be remembered, has formally refused to mobilize and place part of her army in Prussian Silesia, to cover the left flank of the Austrian forces now in Galicia, assigning as a reason her confidence in the pacific intentions of Russia.

Prussia further accuses Austria of having gone beyond the stipulations of her Convention with Prussia; inasmuch as she has concluded separate treaties with other powers which virtually do away with that of April 20th.

The object of Prussia is evidently to prevent Austria from taking an active participation in the war. Both from Berlin and Vienna it is stated that great efforts are being made to obtain the consent of the Western Powers to an armistice.

The Prussian cabinet is urging with peculiar earnestness the necessity of suspending hostilities until the belligerents shall have pursued further the present endeavor to arrive at an understanding. There are mere rumors, but nothing else is at present within reach of the public.

An approaching Congress of Nations is more and more confidently talked of. The London Daily News says: "We may be induced to repose some confidence in the result of that Congress's deliberations if the United States are invited to take part in them and accept the invitation."

Sardinia is reported as being willing to undertake to send 15,000 men, recruited from all Italy, to the aid of the allies in the east, and the Emperor of Austria, for fear of an outside enterprise to engage their attention, the Italians are growing restless.

The Senates of Hamburg and Lubeck have issued an edict forbidding foreign enlistments, and it is expected that Bremen, Mecklenburg Schwerin and Strelitz will also issue prohibitions of the same description. The army of Bavaria has almost completed its war complement.

Letters say that the Swedish army is immediately to be placed on a war footing, by the addition of 50,000 Swedes and 15,000 Norwegians.

Russia is also preparing for a spring campaign.—Gen. Sieven is charged with the organization of a Baltic army—having Milan for headquarters.

The Crimea.

Affairs remain precisely as they were. The last dates are up to the 10th of January.

Omer Pasha was, on the 6th, at the camp of the Allies, when measures were concerted between him and Lord Raglan and Gen. Canrobert, and on the 6th he returned to Yarna.

Reinforcements continue to reach the allies, and over 3000 of the French Imperial Guards and English Infantry are now at sea, on their way to the Crimea.

Lord Raglan has sent to India for the 10th English Hussars.

The Turks in the Crimea are to be made up to 60,000 before the end of January.

The Russian reinforcements are advancing by forced marches through Bessarabia.

The weather was frosty and the roads passable, although snow had fallen; but the frozen ground retarded the works of the besiegers.

Latest Items from all Sources.

The Opinion (of Turin) of the 15th January, states that the departure of the Piedmontese troops for the Crimea will take place on the 28th February. According to that journal, the contingent is to consist of 20,000 men, 15,000 of whom will embark on that day, and the additional 5,000 are to follow on the 28th.

Private letters from Vienna say that Prince Gortschakoff has instructions to accept everything, and accede to all the allies may demand, except the reduction of the Russian fleet and the occupation of the Russian territory.

The Danube.

We are without anything respecting the invasion of Dobroja, excepting the following from The Wanderer, of Vienna:

The Russians crossed the Danube at Tultscha, and favored by the obscurity of the night, reached the right bank in their boats, and surprised one of the weakest garrisons, and after making great carnage, re-crossed the river laden with booty and taking with them a number of prisoners. There was considerable loss on the part of the Russians, as the Turks fought with desperate courage. Among the slain is a Pasha, but his name is not mentioned.

The inhabitants of Tultscha, with their wives and children, fled into the country, and did not return again till long after the departure of the Russians.

The Hamburg Wachrichten contains a telegraphic despatch from Yarna, dated the 14th, wherein it is stated that Count Buel has addressed a note to Prince Gortschakoff, demanding an explanation relative to the recrossing of the Danube by the Russian forces, and their occupation of Dobroja; and thence as a matter of course, menacing Yarna and its communications.

The Turkish force now in the Dobroja is estimated at more than 20,000 men, mostly raw recruits, however—the flower of Omar's army having gone to the Crimea, against which, it is said, Omar strongly protested, and still remains much dissatisfied.

It is suspected that the Austrian Government was a party to the eruption at Dobroja, wishing to demonstrate thereby the necessity for an armistice.

Loss of Sloop Sarah.

KALAHUA, March 22d, 1855.

ED. OF POLYNESIAN, Dear Sir.—It may be interesting to your readers to be made acquainted with the circumstances connected with the loss of the sloop Sarah of Kalahua which occurred during the night of Friday, March 10th, 1855.

On Thursday afternoon the sloop left the harbor and had a fine run till off the western end of Mokuia, called "ka ka o ka laua" where she encountered a gale of wind and a heavy cross sea. For a time the noble little craft stood it bravely, till an immense wave swept past, carrying the copper off from one broad side and the oakum from the seams. This caused her to leak very badly while wind and wave increased fast upon them. In this difficult situation they resolved to run under the lee of Lanai, if possible, and await calmer weather.

Unfortunately both wind and sea increased fast and no shelter could they find. Thus passed the night, and daylight, cold, stormy and cloudy, brought them no relief. As soon as they could see they found themselves south of Lanai still exposed to all the violence of the gale. In this extremity the leak increasing and the sea lashed to fury by the heavy wind, a ship was seen several miles from them. They made a signal of distress, which, after a time, was seen by the ship, which proved to be the W. Thompson, Capt. White, who promptly came to their assistance. The ship at the time was under close reefed top sails. The ship took of all hands, 15 in number, and after treating them with the greatest kindness, landed them safely at Lahaina, on Sunday. It gives me the greatest pleasure to state that all on board of that unfortunate little craft, unite in bearing testimony to the kindness and consideration with which they were treated by all on board of the Wm. Thompson. They say the captain and crew seemed to be actuated by a spirit unusually kind, such as none but noble men ever exhibit. The ship laid by the sloop till she sunk and then sailed to Lahaina.

It gives me much pleasure to bear this testimony, which I do at the request of those rescued from a watery grave; who say they will not soon forget the kindness and consideration with which they were cared for by all on board the good ship Wm. Thompson. With the hope that the blessing of God may accompany that ship in all her voyage, I remain, very truly yours.

SAMUEL G. DWIGHT.

From Micronesia.

Mr. Editor.—Letters have just been received from Ascension, bringing down the dates from that island to Oct. 12 '54. The news is truly painful. The small box which had just reached there at our previous dates prevailed to a dreadful extent during the summer, sweeping off, as is supposed, nearly one half of the population. No vaccine matter was to be had. Dr. Gulick resorted to inoc